



**Robert E. Bush**  
Naval Hospital

## Did you know?...

**Y**ou have the right to express your concerns about patient safety and quality of care.

There are several avenues open to you:

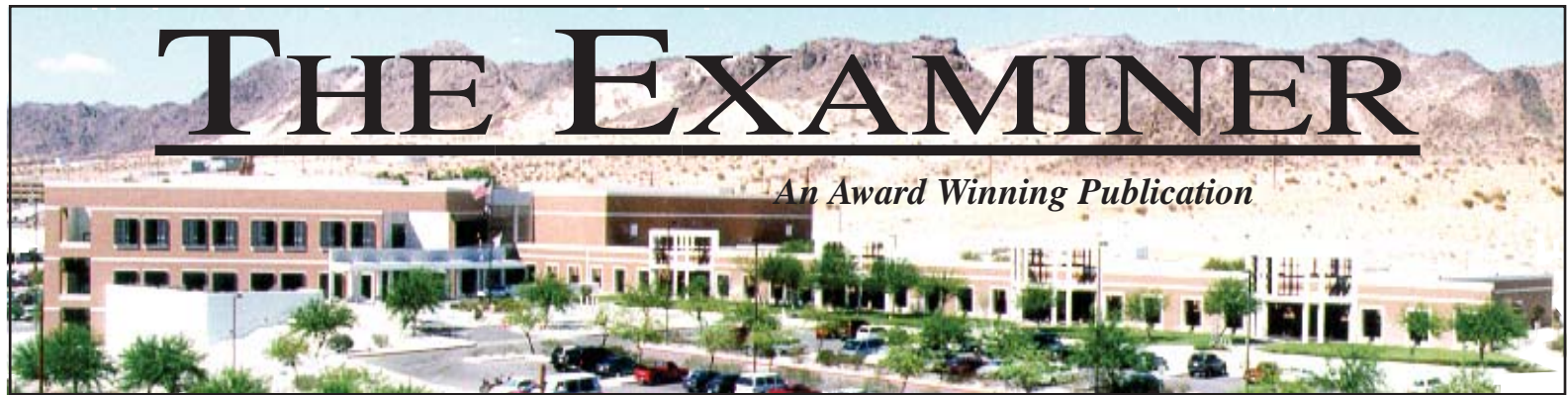
- \* Through the ICE website.
- \* The Hospital Customer Relations Officer at 760-830-2475, or any of the Customer Relations representatives in the Hospital clinics, or directly to the Joint Commission via:  
E-mail at [complaint@jointcommission.org](mailto:complaint@jointcommission.org)  
Fax: 630-792-5636

The Joint Commission  
Oak Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

**T**o report Fraud, Waste and Abuse contact one of the below offices by calling:

Naval Hospital: 760-830-2344  
Combat Center: 760-830-7749  
NavMedWest: 1-877-479-3832  
Medical IG: 1-800-637-6175  
DoD IG: 1-800-424-9098

Commanding Officer  
Naval Hospital Public Affairs Office  
Box 788250 MAGTF TC  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8250



<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhttp/pages/default.aspx>

## IMOP Holds Potential to Streamline Ordering and Decrease Item Costs



*Ms. Ellen Wilson, Booz, Allen Hamilton, briefs supply techs and Materials Management personnel November 14, in a full-capacity Classroom 5, on the benefits of IMOP.*

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms may see a 10 percent cost savings in its inventory procurement when, and if, the Inventory Management Optimization Program (IMOP) is implemented. Booz Allen Hamilton employees, Ms. Ellen Wilson and Ms. Michelle Ward, completed a site visit November 14-15, to assess the feasibility of implementing the new procurement system.

The program management system has already been implemented at 14 military treatment facilities. "The program is designed to increase inventory efficiency in terms of making it

easier to find products, as well as offering greater reliability in ordering and maintaining inventory. It imposes better organization and leads to less waste from over spending and expired products," Wilson said.

The Inventory Management Optimization Program is funded by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's (BUMED) Logistics Division. The Booz Allen Hamilton team findings will be forwarded to BUMED senior leadership and a decision on whether to implement the program at NHTP is expected by the end of the current fiscal year.



*The Maternal Infant & Nursing Department (MIND) wins the Customer Service Award, tabulated through ICE comments, comment cards and patient feedback. MIND will display the Best of the Best banner in the current quarter.*

## Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Primary Care Clinics will be open Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

For your convenience our primary care clinics will be available for appointments Tuesday, December 26, and Tuesday, January 2, 2018, by calling the appointment line (760) 830-2752 or if Active Duty (760) 830-2621. Beneficiaries may also directly message assigned providers via Relay Health or by calling the Nurse Advice Line (800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1, available anywhere 24/7.

Holiday parties and family gatherings are events that everyone looks forward to during this time of year. However, holidays can be overwhelming as well as stressful. Let us remove some of the stress during this holiday season with the knowledge that Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms is available to meet your medical needs.

Also, please remember, NHTP Clinics (Blue and Gold teams) are now open Monday through Friday until 6 p.m. Please call the appointment line: (760) 830-2752, or use TRICARE Online or Relay Health to request an appointment.

Your health is our mission!



*Mr. Ricardo DeLuna measures out the number of pounds of sugar he thinks the average American consumes in a month during the NHTP Nutrition Management Department Diabetes Health Fair November 14. Visitors were screened for high blood pressure, blood sugar and departed with educational materials. It's estimated diabetes affects 30.3 million Americans. November was Diabetes Prevention Month; and Head of NHTP Food Services and the Nutrition Management Department, Lt. Michael Kantar (front, right) was intent on getting the word out. Eating more healthfully, becoming more physically active and losing a few extra pounds will help reduce your risk. And for the record, the number of pounds of sugar the average American consumes in a month is seven pounds.*



## Branch Clinics Steamroll Through Turkey Bowl



**By HMI Austin Smith**

BRIDGEPORT, California. November 21, 2017, is a day that will live in Mountain Warfare Training Center infamy. Sailors from DeWert Branch Clinic Bridgeport, two Marines from MWTC Mess Hall and two Marines from Motor-T scored 72 unanswered points over three games, including the championship.

Over the three games, Hospitalman Michael March completed eight receptions for over 180 yards with three touchdowns and two 2-point conversions. Hospital Corpsman Second Class Derrick Haynes effected seven tackles, two sacks, and rushed for 68 yards before suffering a hamstring injury in the second game. Hospital Corpsman Third Class Zachary Pederson was a defensive force to be reckoned with, accumulating 10 sacks and 12 tackles in two of the three games. March, Haynes and Pederson are assigned to Branch Clinic China Lake and traveled to Bridgeport for the game. HM3 Caleb Young was six for seven pass-completions with one TD completion and one rushing touchdown. On defense, he had three sacks and seven tackles. Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jesse Gilner had four interceptions for 68 yards, six receptions for 180 yards with one TD and three interceptions and eight tackles on defense. Hospital Corpsman First Class Austin Smith had over 800+ yards punting as he was the team kicker, two interceptions for 28 yards, eight tackles, and, in the championship game, he had one reception for 43 yards where he aggressively blew through four defenders and had one TD reception.

The Clinic team was an unstoppable force that no one was prepared for, both on offense and defense. Their tireless work and efforts were only surpassed by their comradery and fair play.



**NHTP Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri, cuts the ribbon on the Directorate of Public Health's new decontamination cart, available for fast-action response to environmental contamination.**



**The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital triad (far left), Executive Officer, Capt. Patrick Amersbach, Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri and Command Master Chief (Acting) HMCS Glenn Bagamaspad pose with the Adobe Cafe Ship's Galley culinary specialists on November 22. The executive triad served the Thanksgiving holiday meal from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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### **Executive Officer**

Capt. Patrick K. Amersbach, NC, USN

### **Command Master Chief**

HMCM (SW/AW/FMF) Jerry Ramey, USN

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The Examiner welcomes your comments and suggestions concerning the publication. Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month for the following month's edition. Any format is welcome, however, the preferred method of submission is by e-mail or by computer disk.

### **How to reach us...**

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# Department in the Spotlight: Staff Education and Training (SEAT)

By Lt. Cmdr. Derrick LeBeau

Department Head: Lt. Cmdr. Derrick LeBeau  
LCPO: HMC Eme Praska  
LPO: HM1 Joseph Canonigo

The Staff Education and Training (SEAT) Department at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and Branch Health Clinics provides education and

training support to over 600 staff members. One of our primary goals in SEAT is to provide exceptional customer service in regard to classroom reservation requests, generating compliance reports for various departments and program managers, facilitate BUMED and Fleet-specific training, and maintain training readiness for all active-duty staff members.



*Seat Team L-R: Mr. Dave Llanos, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Seth Anderson, Hospital Corpsman First Class Joseph Canonigo, Lt. Cmdr. Derrick LeBeau, Chief Hospital Corpsman Eme Praska, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Mercedes Maebane, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Trevor Williams.*

Responsible for several training programs, each member of the SEAT team manages each program with professionalism and integrity.

Several training initiatives within the command are supported by the amazing staff within SEAT. Currently, HMC Eme Praska serves as the department's Leading Chief Petty Officer, providing mentorship and guidance in support of the enlisted staff. Next up, our Leading Petty Officer, HM1 Joseph Canonigo, is responsible for managing and leading the department Sailors, SEAT-related programs, and day-to-day activities. In addition to his leadership responsibilities, HM1 Canonigo is also the Program Manager for the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course here at NHTP. His experience, intelligence, and devotion to his duty as a leader are appreciated throughout the department!

HM2 Seth Anderson and HM2 Mercedes Maebane are the Yin

and Yang that help maintain balance within the department. HM2 Anderson is a strong leader who provides strict oversight with our newly reporting HMSB students; and he is the most reliable member of the SEAT team. He is also responsible for managing the Command Indoctrination program and the Electronic Training Records through the Department Training Officers. On the other hand, HM2 Maebane is the charismatic presence within the department, currently serving as the Command Sponsorship Coordinator, HMSB Program Manager, and Supply Petty Officer for SEAT. Her passion for mentoring new Sailors is beyond measure, and her willingness to improve the department, the command, herself, and others is significant.

No department is successful without a binding force to keep everyone together, and both HM3 Trevor Williams and Mr. Dave Llanos are that glue. As the SEAT front man, HM3

Williams is our respectful representative at the front desk. He is instrumental in managing both the SEAT training calendar and classroom reservation requests.

Mr. Dave Llanos is our trusted staple within the department, retaining the corporate knowledge necessary for success and continuity. His familiarity and experience in managing a total of five programs within the department are appreciated and serve as a testament to his dedication as an educational leader.

As the departmental leader for SEAT, I am motivated by the level of professionalism and critical thinking that takes place within the department.

Everyone in SEAT has an equal say when it comes to making departmental decisions that ultimately impact the command. Our combined success stems from the professionalism from each member of the team!



*Six NHTP Sailors represented the United States Navy for Palm Springs Bob Hope USO's annual gala, themed, A Spirit of Hope for the USO, held at Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Casino Resort Spa November 10. (Photos by HM3 Michelle Bowles).*



## Awardees...

*The following awards were presented during the First Friday Award Ceremony, November 3, 2017, in NHTP Classrooms 4 & 5. Hospital Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri, was the presenting officer with Executive Officer (acting) Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe and Command Master Chief Jerry Ramey.*



*Lt. Steven Augustine is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.*



*Ms. Gina Buffalo is presented with a Letter of Commendation, citing her selection as NHTP Senior Civilian of the Quarter.*



*Hospital Corpsman Second Class Dennis Chapman is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for his Save the Children volunteer support.*



*Hospitalman Byron Cheung is presented with a Flag Letter of Commendation upon his selection as NHTP Blue Jacket of the Quarter.*



*Hospital Corpsman Second Class Regina Davis is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for her Save the Children volunteer support.*



*Ms. Viola DeGraffenreid is presented with a Letter of Commendation, citing her selection as NHTP Junior Civilian of the Quarter.*



*Hospital Corpsman Second Class Daniel Dobrick is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.*



*Hospital Corpsman Second Class Vittorio Garcia is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.*







*Hospitalman Kyle Jameson is presented with a Letter of Commendation for, among other notable accomplishments, being one of the 14 personnel awarded an outstanding for the Fiscal Year 2017 Command Dress Blue inspection.*



*Hospitalman Apprentice Chase Welle is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for his Save the Children volunteer support.*



*Hospitalman Apprentice Brent Jones is presented with a Patient Safety Award.*



*Hospital Corpsman Third Class Joseph Lujano is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for his Save the Children volunteer support.*



*Hospital Corpsman First Class Joshua Lukacovic is presented with a Flag Letter of Commendation upon his selection as NHTP Senior Sailor of the Quarter.*



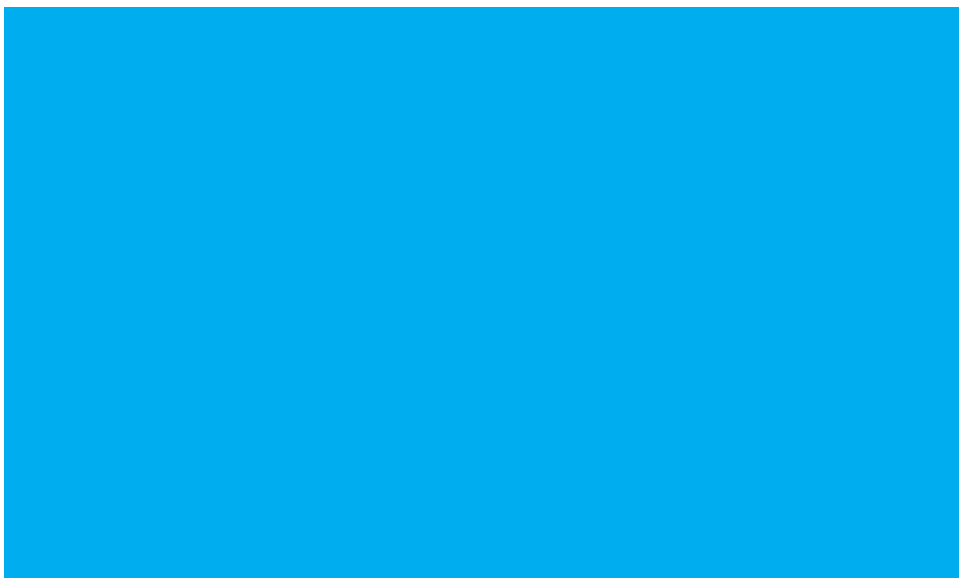
*Lt. Joshua Mendoza is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.*



*Hospital Corpsman First Class Alfredo Ruizborges is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for his Save the Children volunteer support.*



*Hospital Corpsman Third Class Veronica Vargus is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.*



# Introducing New Staff -- Welcome Aboard!



**Lt. Cmdr. Jeremy Ramsey**

Lt. Cmdr. Jeremy Ramsey arrived from Naval Branch Health Clinic Mayport, Florida, where he was primary-care sports medicine physician. He's been in the Navy nine years. Hometown is Turlock, California. He earned his undergraduate degree in exercise physiology from the University of California, Davis, and his medical degree from the University of Southern California. "We were excited to get orders for Twentynine Palms," Ramsey said. "For my wife and me, it's an opportunity to be closer to family." Ramsey said he's enthusiastic about setting up a SMART Clinic (Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Treatment Center), a multi-modal approach incorporating physical therapy, chiropractic and orthopedics, giving a comprehensive approach to the patient. Ramsey is here with his wife and three daughters, ages seven, five and two. The Ramseys enjoy the Disney theme parks. They also enjoy outdoor activities such as camping.



**CS3 Mario Billings**

Culinary Specialist Third Class Mario Billings arrived from Mayport, Florida. He's been in the Navy five years. Hometown is Memphis, Tennessee. He joined the Navy for the education benefits and the technical training. "When I get back to the civilian world, I want to be able to make a better life of it," he said. He's here unaccompanied and has an apartment in town. He's also served on the USS Normandy (CG 60) and the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7). Of the two ships, Billings preferred the USS Normandy. "It's a smaller ship with all Navy personnel; and on a smaller ship, the team just seems to click better," he said. Billings said he was surprised by the beauty of the California desert. "It's actually really nice and quiet," he said. Billings plans to make 2nd Class, serve one or two more assignments and return to civilian life where he intends to pursue a technical degree, perhaps graphic arts. For hobbies, he enjoys reading (anything that catches his attention).



**HMC Steven Piedrahita**

Chief Hospital Corpsman Steven Piedrahita is the new Leading Chief Petty Officer for the Operations Management Department. He did a brief stint with the 23rd Dental Detachment, but really arrived from Rota, Spain, where he was the Leading Petty Officer for the Staff Education and Training Department at Naval Hospital Rota, Spain, and then worked in their Emergency Medicine Department. He's been in the Navy 14 years. His original hometown was Cartagena, Colombia; but his family moved to San Diego when he was eight. Piedrahita joined the Navy out of a sense of patriotism and family tradition. His father is a current U.S. Navy Senior Chief damage controlman. He recently completed his Associate's degree and is now interested in pursuing a business degree. Piedrahita is here with his wife and son, 4. The family enjoys bowling, exploring Joshua Tree National Park, which is "truly a transformative experience," he said.



**Ms. Kassidy Garvin**

Ms. Kassidy Garvin is NHTP's new chiropractic assistant. She has a Bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Wyoming and performed her internship with a chiropractor in Wyoming. Garvin said she's always been interested in how the body moves and functions. Combined with her interest in working out, kinesiology seemed like a natural fit. "I love it," Garvin said. "The patients always look forward to seeing the chiropractor; and they always leave feeling better than when they came in; so it's rewarding." Garvin's husband is assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion. Garvin plans to become a full-fledged chiropractor and has been applying to schools to further that end. Garvin said this area resembles her hometown, Rock Springs, Wyoming. "It reminds me of home and there are really cool things around here, like Joshua Tree National Park," she said. Hobbies include water skiing, wake boarding, camping and hiking.



**Dr. Amy Sanderson**

Dr. Amy Sanderson is NHTP's new Emergency Department physician. She earned her undergrad degree from UCLA, attended medical school at the University of Miami, Florida; and did her residency at Staten Island University Hospital, New York. Her husband is assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. Hometown is San Diego, California. She appreciates being close to Joshua Tree National Park and said, "It's fun to be in a place that's a tourist attraction." Sanderson was attracted to emergency medicine for its diversity of care. "You have to know a little bit about everything" [in emergency medicine], she noted. Dr. Sanderson arrived from a large medical center in San Diego. She also worked as an emergency-medicine circuit rider in Ohio. She tired of commuting to the high desert with the realization, "there's a hospital right here." For off-time activities, the Sandersons love beaches, especially scuba diving. They also enjoy movies and ice hockey.





*Hospital Corpsman Third Class Javonte Hill (right) reenlisted for two more years November 22, at the Adult Medical Care Clinic. Hill, from Tallahassee, Florida, has been in the Navy seven years. As part of an NHTP tradition, Hill was granted a 96-hour special liberty pass upon reenlisting. He was also granted a 72-hour special liberty pass to bestow on the Sailor of his choosing. Hill gave the 72-hour special liberty pass to fellow general-duty Corpsman, HM3 Antonio Rodriguez.*



*Lt. j.g. Elizabeth Stark, MIND, is awarded the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses November 14, presented by Senior Executive Nurse, Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe. Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Lynd, Chairwoman for the five-member NHTP Daisy Award Committee, read a patient testimonial that included, "Her heart shows that we are not just another job or patient. The amount of effort she displays shows how unbelievable she is as a person and a nurse." Other nominees for the Daisy Award included: RN Shelbi Cassel (MIND), Lt. Sarah Blake (MIND), Ens. Khadijah Fuller (MIND), RN Marie Hampton (MIND), RN Jeanette Alvarado (MIND), Lt. Kendra Foreman (MSW), RN Lakesha Williams (MSW), Lt. j.g. Tanjii White (MSW), Cmdr. Garry Closas (Emergency Dept.), Lt. Cmdr. Mardi Rahn (Gold Team), Lt. Cmdr. Serina Hernandez (OBGYN Clinic), Lt. Laurabeth Brogdon (Blue Team), RN Theresa Weseman (Case Management), Lt. Gissella Martinez (Anesthesia). Nurses may be nominated by submitting a patient feedback card or an ICE comment.*

## SHIPSHAPE Weight Management Program

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms is making it easier than ever for our entire community to get the most current information on nutrition, exercise and building healthy support systems with free, open enrollment to everyone and your choice of weekly sessions:  
Mondays: 9 a.m.-10 a.m.  
Tuesdays: 2 p.m.-3 p.m.

Please call (760) 830-2173; or email Ms. Tanya Stuckey: [tanya.l.stuckey.civ@mail.mil](mailto:tanya.l.stuckey.civ@mail.mil) for locations, special-request group scheduling and/or more information.



Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273); Option 1  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



*The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) provided a special agent to provide insider threat training to a full-capacity house in NHTP Classrooms 4 & 5 November 16. The command had a requirement to provide "in-person training;" and NCIS graciously provided personnel and a block of instruction. Two sessions of training were provided to standing-room only audiences.*



*Hospitalman Chase Welle is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for his Save the Children volunteer support.*



*Hospital Corpsman Third Class Andrea Wilmot is presented with a Letter of Appreciation for her Save the Children volunteer support.*

